

KEEGAN WERLIN LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
265 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110-3113

(617) 951-1400

TELECOPIERS:
(617) 951-1354
(617) 951-0586

May 16, 2005

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: D.T.E. 03-118, Cambridge Electric Light Company and Commonwealth
Electric Company – 2003 Reconciliation Filing

D.T.E. 04-114, Cambridge Electric Light Company and Commonwealth
Electric Company – 2004 Reconciliation Filing

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

At midnight today, the Utility Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 369 went on strike against NSTAR, including Cambridge Electric Light Company (“Cambridge”) and Commonwealth Electric Company (“Commonwealth”) (together, the “Companies”). In order to ensure that service to customers is maintained safely and reliably, non-union personnel have been redeployed to other assignments within NSTAR. As part of this effort, more than half of the staff normally assigned to regulatory and rates matters will not be available for the duration of the work stoppage. Accordingly, it will be necessary to prioritize regulatory activities to ensure that those matters that are time-sensitive or that have immediate impacts on customers will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. Those matters that can be delayed without permanent impacts should be given a lower priority.

Under the present schedule, the above-referenced proceedings are to go to evidentiary hearings on June 2, 2005. In addition, the Companies were in the midst of preparing several supplemental responses to certain information requests (some at the request of the Attorney General) and to update certain exhibits. The resources needed to complete and file the documents and to prepare for hearings are not available because of the reassignment of key personnel, and, consequently, it will not be possible to make the filings and thereafter to go forward with hearings as scheduled.

Therefore, the Companies request that the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the “Department”) suspend the procedural schedule in these proceedings.

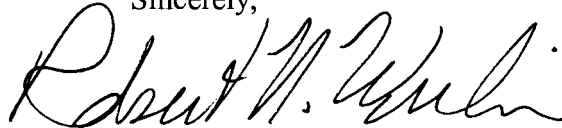
Letter to Secretary Cottrell
D.T.E. 03-118/D.T.E. 04-114
May 16, 2005
Page 2

Because the issues in these cases involve the reconciliation of costs and revenues in 2003 and 2004, there is no permanent harm to customers by deferring consideration, since any adjustments ordered by the Department would be flowed through with carrying charges.

The Companies cannot determine the length of the work stoppage and therefore request that the procedural schedule be suspended until the strike ends. At that time, the Department could convene a procedural hearing (perhaps through a conference call) to establish a new schedule.

We have been authorized by the Attorney General to represent that he assents to this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Werlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert N. Werlin

cc: Shaela McNulty Collins, Hearing Officer
Service List, D.T.E. 03-118/D.T.E. 04-114